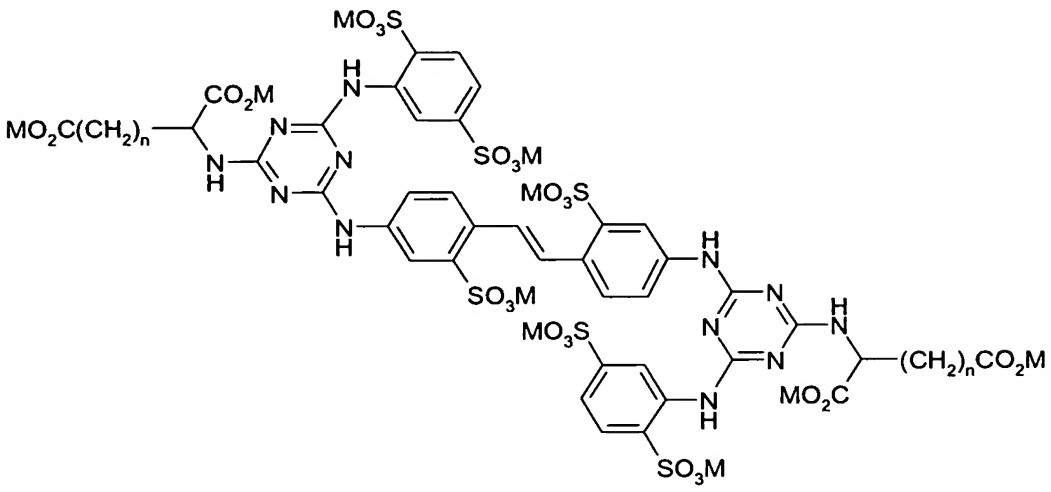
CLAIMS

1. Storage-stable aqueous solution comprising an optical brightener of formula (1)



(1)

wherein

M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, ammonium, or ammonium which is mono-, di- or trisubstituted by a C_2-C_3-hydroxyalkyl radical, and

n is from 1 to 4,

characterized in that the amount of the optical brightener is higher than 0.214 mol/kg and that no solubilizing agent is contained in the solution.

2. Storage-stable aqueous solution according to claim 1 wherein

M is hydrogen or a sodium cation, and

n is 1 or 2.

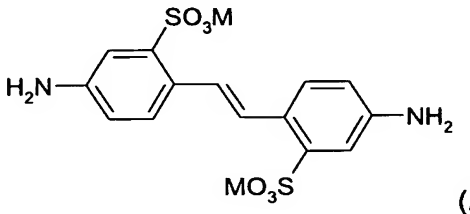
3. Storage-stable aqueous solution according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the concentration of the optical brightener is from 0.215 mol/kg to 0.350 mol/kg.

4. Storage-stable aqueous solution according to claim 3 wherein the concentration of the optical brightener is from 0.250 mol/kg to 0.340 mol/kg.

5. Storage-stable aqueous solution according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein additionally inorganic salts, carriers, antifreezes, preservatives or complexing agents are contained.

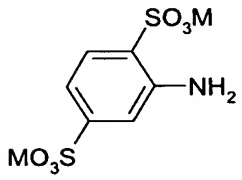
6. Process for the preparation of an aqueous solution according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the compounds of formula (1) are prepared by stepwise reaction of a cyanuric halide with

a) a diamine of formula (A)



(A)

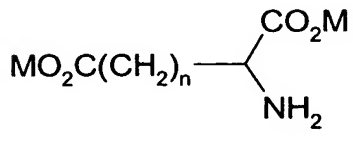
b) an amine of formula (B)



(B)

and

c) an amine of formula (C)



(C)

and wherein at least 50 %, preferably at least 80 % by weight, of the alkali metal or amine salt that is generated as a by-product of each reaction between an amine and a cyanuric halide is removed from the reaction solution.

7. Process according to claim 6 wherein the removal of the alkali metal or amine salt is done by ultrafiltration or membrane filtration of the reaction solution or by isolating the optical brightener and then dissolving it again.

8. Process according to claim 7 wherein the removal is done by membrane filtration.

9. Use of a storage-stable aqueous solution according to any of claims 1 to 5 for brightening of paper or other cellulosic substrates wherein the optical brightener is used in a concentration of 0.05 to 0.5 % by weight of the white pigment..

10. Use according to claim 9 for brightening of paper in a pigmented coating composition.